

**OPINION**  
**58-148**

June 4, 1958           (OPINION)

RECORDS

RE: Public - Public Access To

I am in receipt of your letter of May 19, 1958, in which you request an interpretation of Chapter 305, 1957 Session Laws, which Act reads as follows:

S 1.) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, all records of public or governmental bodies, boards, bureaus, commissions or agencies of the state or any political subdivision of the state, or organizations or agencies supported in whole or in part by public funds, or expending public funds, shall be public records, open and accessible for inspection during reasonable office hours."

It will be noted that the Act refers to "all records of public or governmental bodies" as being "public records." In my opinion this language is all-inclusive and would include records of official proceedings, reports and other documents that are required by law to be filed with an agency, and day-to-day correspondence of public officials on matters relating to their official duties.

Such records may be inspected by members of the public, regardless of what their purpose might be. I do believe, however, that the custodian of the records may require the person making such a request to specify the record or records which such person wishes to inspect. In other words, it was not the intent of the law to convert governmental offices into a sort of public library, through which persons might browse at their leisure.

LESLIE R. BURGUM

Attorney General